

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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R 021716Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0853

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC EUR VAHINGEN

USDEL MC BRUSSELS

USLO SACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12935

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE CEILING AUGUMENTATION

REFS: (A) STATE 183434 DTG 232351Z JUL 76

(B) USNATO 3300 DTG 111220Z JUN 76

1. AS DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER POINTED OUT AT THE JUNE 10

DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING (PARA 7, REFTEL B), IT WILL BE

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DIFFICULT FOR THE FRG TO FIND THE MONEY TO MAKE AN

INCREASED CONTRIBUTION TO INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING. LEBER'S COMMENT THAT HE ONLY HAD FIVE TO TEN PERCENT OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET TO PLAY WITH WAS AN ACCURATE ONE, SINCE MOST OF THE BUDGET IS EARMARKED FOR FIXED OR PROGRAMMED EXPENDITURES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FRG HAS INCREASED REAL EXPENDITURES IN THE INVESTMENT SECTOR TO FUND SEVERAL NEW COSTLY WEAPONS SYSTEMS E.G., MRCA, 122 CLASS FRIGATES, ETC. THESE AND OTHER PROGRAMS REPRESENT A CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL DRAIN ON FUTURE DEFENSE RESOURCES. EVEN THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION, WHICH SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S DEFENSE BUDGET AND EVEN CALLED RECENTLY FOR AN INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING, HAS ALSO EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN ABOUT MORTGAGING THE FUTURE TO PAY FOR SO MANY EXPENSIVE NEW SYSTEMS.

2. BECAUSE OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, WE BELIEVE THE GERMANS WOULD BE MOST RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO A FIFTY PERCENT INCREASE THIS YEAR. IN OPPOSING SUCH A PROPOSAL, THE GERMANS WOULD PROBABLY ARGUE THAT THEY JUST AGREED IN 1974 TO A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN FRG CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM. NEVERTHELESS, ASSUMING A SOLID RATIONALE FOR AN AUGMENTED INFRASTRUCTURE IS DEVELOPED, WE CAN SEE NO HARM IN APPROACHING THE FRG AND WE WILL MAKE A SOLID PITCH, WITH THE REALIZATION THAT THE GERMAN ATTITUDE MAY WELL BE NEGATIVE AT THIS TIME.
HILLENBRAND

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